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Kennedy death inquiry

Probers can't confirm Oswald-CIA contact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate investigators were unable to confirm reports from two CIA officers that the spy agency may have contacted Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination of President John Kennedy.

However, Senator Richard Schweiker (R, Pa.), who headed the Kennedy assassination investigation, said yesterday through a spokesman: "I don't think we know the whole story."

The CIA released a document on Thursday showing that the agency once considered using Oswald as a source of intelligence information about the Soviet Union. The document appeared to conflict with sworn testimony before the Warren Commission by Richard Helms, then a branch chief and later the CIA's director, that the agency never had "or even contemplated" any contacts with Oswald.

Senator Schweiker said he was unaware of the Oswald document but a well-informed source said it had been turned over to the Senate intelligence subcommittee that investigated the Kennedy assassination. "We followed it up," the source said, but "we



Lee Harvey Oswald

found no indication that Oswald was in fact contacted."

The same source said investigators also were unable to confirm the sworn testimony before the subcommittee by a former CIA officer who claimed to have seen a CIA report concerning a contact with a man closely resembling Oswald's description.

Senator Schweiker confirmed that his subcommittee had been unable to corroborate "several reports" of CIA contacts with Oswald in connection with his travels in the Soviet Union.

Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and lived there until 1962.

The Oswald document released by the CIA under a Freedom of Information Act request was written by an unidentified CIA officer who recalled that "we showed intelligence interest" in Oswald and "discussed the laying on of interviews."

The unidentified officer, who wrote the memo three days after President Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, added that he was transferred to another assign-

ment and "I do not know what action developed thereafter."

According to the source, subcommittee investigators interviewed the official with whom the unidentified officer discussed the possibility of contacting Oswald.

"Nothing ever came of it," the source said adding that a search of agency files turned up "no paperwork that any follow-up action was taken" to contact Oswald.